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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,050	07/16/2003	James R. Buck	Buck 52	8809
23474	7590	08/15/2005	EXAMINER	
FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C. 2026 RAMBLING ROAD KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631			KRAMER, DEAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3652	

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/621,050 Examiner Dean J. Kramer	BUCK, JAMES R. Art Unit 3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 6-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/16/03. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

There is no clear antecedent basis for "said separate pieces" as recited in claim 3, lines 3 and 4.

***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 6 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 6, line 30 and in claim 8, line 29, immediately after the word "chord", it appears that the word --of--should be inserted. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsui et al. (4,641,986).

The Tsui et al. ('986) patent shows an embodiment in Figures 5-8 comprising a two-piece annular body (12', 54) that, when assembled, defines opposing sockets (65, 66) for accommodating stub shaft members (61, 62) of hoist ring member (11'). Each stub shaft member has an annular groove spaced from its end face (63, 64) wherein the grooves cooperate with an upwardly projecting surface (70) formed on the bottom body piece (54) and a downwardly projecting surface formed on the upper body piece (12') to secure the stub shaft members within their respective socket while allowing relative rotation.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsui et al. (5,848,815) in view of Tsui et al. (4,641,986).

The Tsui et al. ('815) patent shows a hoist ring assembly having stub shaft members (32, 33) with annular grooves (51) for receiving radially projecting pins (50). The Tsui et al. ('815) stub shaft members (32, 33) are not integrally formed with the hoist ring (11) as is called for in claims 1 and 5 of the instant application.

However, as presented above in section 4, Tsui et al. ('986) shows a U-shaped hoist ring member (11') with stub shaft members (61,62) integrally formed at the remote ends thereof.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrally form the stub shaft members (32,33) of the Tsui et al. ('815) assembly on the remote ends of its hoist ring member (11) as taught by Tsui et al. ('986) in order to facilitate the assembly thereof by reducing the number of parts.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 6-9 are allowed (assuming the minor objection as set forth in section 2 above is overcome).

#### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rehbein shows an inwardly projecting pin (20) for retaining a shaft within a socket.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dean J. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6926. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. (7:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571) 272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Dean J. Kramer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3652

djk  
8/9/05